Ronald MacDonald
Dies In Calif.

Word has been received here of the
death at Los Angeles of Ronald Mac-
Donald formerly of Grinnell.

Mr. MacDonald was an old new-
paper writer and correspondent in
Canada and his ancestors were members of the MacDonald
clan of Scotland. He served for a
time on newspapers at Montreal and
later was employed on New York
papers. He was a relative of C. H.
Spencer and on account of his relatives here he located in Grinnell in
the seventies and was for a time a
part owner in the corner drug store
under the name of MacDonald, Snider
and Co. His home was on the corner
where John Goodfellow's residence now is. His first wife died
while living here and he was married
July 12th, 1884 to Clara Vanderweer. He
built the home in which the Goodfel-
lowes now live.

In August 1894 he bought the in-
terest of S. A. Cravath in the Grin-
nell Herald, the firm being known at
that time as Cravath and Ray. After
his purchase the firm was known as Ray and MacDonald until he sold
out in 1899 to G. W. Cowden.

Three daughters were born to them
and all are alive and were at his beds-
side at the time of his death. On
account of the health of one of the
girls he moved to Colorado and later
moved to what is now Hollywood, Calif.

All the old timers remember Mr. Mac-
Donald with interest. He was a
man of rare talent, high-minded, a
worthy citizen and all who knew him were his friends.

He was in good health and
lived to the ripe old age of ninety-
eight years.

A. L. Child Sr., Grinnell's pho-
tographer since 1889 and before, fol-
lowing the death of Ronald MacDon-
ald, has brought to light one of the
old time photographs of that cul-
tured gentleman. Mr. MacDonald came
here from New York and he and Mrs.
MacDonald became active in all city
interests. Mrs. MacDonald was an early member of the Ladies Historical
club. Mr. MacDonald was rec-
ognized as once as a man of culture
and his judgment was respected, and
probably no man in his time was
more highly honored than he.

He married his second wife, Clara
Vanderweer, in 1894 and at once
bought an interest in the Herald
which he retained for five years. Af-
ter retiring he lived here for a time
and then in Denver but for many
years in Los Angeles.

It is interesting to look back and
note how a man of his type could
gain almost entirely out of the minds
of the people in the town where he
was so highly regarded for a good
many years. He had been gone from
Grinnell nearly thirty years. An en-
tire generation has grown up and
several generations have moved in
and out of the town. It is inevitable
that only a few would be left who re-
member him, but those who do re-
member the kind-hearted, cultured
gentleman who filled so wide a sphere
in this town for many years.
RONALD MACDONALD, the subject of this sketch, is of Scotch descent. He resides at Grinnell, Poweshiek County, Iowa, and was born at Alexandria, Glengarry County, Canada, October 28, 1832. Ronald Mac Donald, his father, was born at Inverness-shire, Scotland, whence his father, Roderick, emigrated to America and settled near Alexandria, where he engaged in farming. The father of Roderick was Angus Mac Donald, a native of the same shire as his son, and descended from the old Celts, the male members of the family being fishermen on the coast of Scotland.

The father of our subject was engaged in the same occupation as his father before him as long as he resided in Scotland, he, with others, owning a fishing-smack. Emigrating to Canada, he first employed himself in teaching school and afterward was a merchant, dealing in general wares and lumber. In June, 1832, he died of cholera, while going down the St. Lawrence River with a raft of squared timbers. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Donald Mac Donald a native of Inverness-shire, who was also engaged in the herring fisheries. Between 1807 and 1815 he was a soldier in the British army, continuing in that service until after the first abdication of Napoleon and his exile to the island of Elba. Just after the battle of Lepanto he obtained a land grant, subsequent to his discharge, and later hid it in Glengarry County, Canada. He ended his long

Mr. Mac Donald then returned to Montreal, where he again did reporter work on the Transcript and also on the Herald for three years, or until 1865. He was next employed as night editor on the Boston Daily Advertiser for about two and one-half years, later was employed in New York City, in the office of the Commercial Advertiser, for a short time, and then became night editor of the New York Times, which position he held for ten years. He spent the winter of 1878-79 in Colorado and in the year last named came to Grinnell, where he became associated with the firm of Mac Donald, Snider & Co., dealers in drugs, books, stationery, etc., remaining in it four years and then retiring from active business.

Our subject is one of the original stockholders of the Merchants’ National Bank and is now Director in that prosperous institution. Mr. Mac Donald was married first in New York City to Mrs. L. H. Anderson, a native of that State and a graduate of Mrs. Willard’s seminary at Troy. She

life in that county at the age of eighty years, dying as he had lived, a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Hein Mac Donald, the mother of our subject, was born in Inverness-shire, and was the daughter of Donald Mac Donald and the mother of five children, four boys and one girl, the sole care of whom devolved upon her at the death of her husband. Bravely she discharged the duty, bringing them up in Alexandria, in which place she subsequently died. But two of them are living, our subject, who was the youngest, and one other. At the age of seventeen, after attending the public schools of Canada, our subject entered the office of the Montreal Transcript, owned by his uncle, Donald Mac Donald, in the capacity of a reporter. Two years later he engaged in newspaper work in Boston, and in 1854 was employed on Horace Greeley’s New York Tribune, serving first in the counting-room of the latter and afterward as a reporter on that paper, as well as on the New York Commercial Advertiser. In the early part of the war he went to the front as correspondent for the last-named newspaper, at which time he reported (in 1862) the operations of the Burnside expedition into North Carolina.
MACDONALD, Ronald, b. Canada 1852, m. first Mrs. L. H. Anderson, who d. 1889, and m. again in 1890, Clara J. Vanderveer. Had daughter, Catharine H. JPI, p. 406